

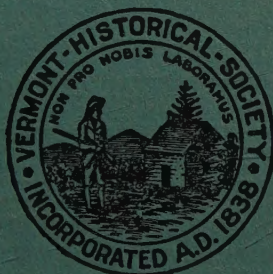
NEW SERIES

Price 75cts.

VOL. IV No. 2

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PROCEEDINGS  
of the  
VERMONT  
*Historical Society*



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James Johns, Vermont Pen Printer

Book Notices

Postscript

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PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

*Montpelier Vermont*

JUNE

1936

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Proceedings  
of the  
*VERMONT*  
Historical Society



*Montpelier Vermont*  
1936

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

JAMES JOHNS, VERMONT PEN PRINTER	69
Minutes for 1823	71
Minutes for the year 1824	74
Minutes for the year 1826	76
A Memorandum of Prominent Occurrences 1860	80
Memorandum of Prominent Occurrences 1861	84
Caleb Covetwife's Marriage	88
The Catamount Hunt	101
BOOK NOTICES	103
POSTSCRIPT	107

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The next issue of the *Proceedings* will include excerpts from a study by Dr. Edward Deming Andrews of the early County Grammar Schools and Academies of the State. Vermont was one of the first commonwealths to inaugurate a system of secondary schools; and the importance of authoritative material bearing on this development is evident.

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P V H S  
Proceedings of the  
Vermont Historical Society

1936

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NEW SERIES

Issued Quarterly

VOL. IV No. 2

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JAMES JOHNS, VERMONT PEN  
PRINTER

*Mr. Robert W. G. Vail in his excellent monograph on James Johns [The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America. Vol. 27, Part 2. 1933] places him in the "rustic bard school of American self-expression," "the homespun and home-made litterateurs who wrote from the heart in very bad prose and who frequently went from bad to verse." The classification is accurate, but the student of American literature is becoming aware that these "homespun" writers may possibly serve an end greater than any present conception we have of them. Their works belong to the rich regional literature of America, and, one of these days, when the tide of American scholarly research has rolled back from the Continent and England and the patient but often uninspired toil among the most minor of minor English writers, our scholars may find our regional literature of supreme importance as an interpretation of an early America and as a fertile source for a great national literature of the future.*

*Aside from being a "rustic bard," Johns was a representative of a type of man who is yet to be recognized properly in our literature and history. As Mr. Vail says,*

*The Connecticut Valley, and more especially that part of it which reaches up into the state of Vermont, has always had its full share of individualists—rawboned men of independent and original thought who could plan the capture of Ticonderoga or become the founders of Mormonism. Shrewd enough in the daily affairs of their hard life, and brave enough in the emergencies of their rugged existence, some of them, at least, became known locally as "characters" and*

gloried in the fame of their mild eccentricities. In pioneer days Vermont attracted from the more staid New England communities many men of this type, men who did their own thinking and acted as they pleased; men who fought for the freedom of their own thinking and Green Mountains with the authority of "the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress" or who ably waged their own private battles without the need of other backing than their own bony fists or a squirrel rifle, as the case seemed to require.

James Johns was a characteristic example of this hardy and independent class. He was born at Huntington, September 26, 1797. He is described as being "a man of swarthy complexion, with thick bushy eyebrows and a deep bass voice." He began to write at the age of thirteen and continued to write until his death in 1874. Stories, history, essays, and poems flowed from his pen, and, according to Mr. Vail, nearly five hundred of his writings are preserved in four or five New England libraries.

Johns purchased a hand press in 1857 which printed a page 4 by 6 inches, but he found the process of printing too slow, and turned, finally, to pen-printing with a quill pen. As he grew proficient with this method, he created pages of print that closely approximated a distinctive and unique type-face. As early as 1834, he pen-printed a newspaper, *The Vermont Autograph and Remarker*; each issue included five or six articles, totaling about fifteen hundred words—every letter printed by hand. He continued the *Autograph* until three months before his death. His pen-printed material consists of historical items, essays, fiction, poems, and political statistics. The text of one of his pen-printed publications, *A History of Huntington*, appears in *Hemenway's Vermont Historical Gazetteer* in enlarged form.

In 1867, Johns began to notice variations in his pen-printing, "the effect," he concluded, "of the increasing weight of years. . . . This decline appears most conspicuous in comparing the execution with that of twenty years ago, when I could imitate printing as fine as brevier so closely you could hardly distinguish it from type-print." In 1867, he moved to Starksboro where he died at the age of seventy-six years.

Mr. Vail states in his "Bibliography of the Writings of James Johns," page 110 of his monograph, that the Vermont Historical Society collection of Johnsiiana consists of 46 printed pieces, 79 in pen print, and 269 in long-hand manuscript. The selections from



*this collection that follow are not the most significant, but are chosen because they seem in general to reflect the various aspects of the pen-printer's style and subject-matter.*

*Editor.*

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## MINUTES FOR 1823

*The list of holographic manuscripts by Johns contains forty-one diaries. ". . . they give a vivid picture of a half-century of the life of a quaint little Vermont community and of the simple joys and sorrows, the enthusiasms and annoyances, the drudgery and the aspirations, of its most picturesque citizen."*—R. W. G. V. Editor.

January. 9. Mr Z. Joslin had his house Bernt. 11, & 12 Quart. M. of the F. B. in Huntington. 13. Jos. Sprague's child died soon after its birth. also. the child of Adam Kimbully.

February. 11. Rebecca Bradley. had her leg broke. by a sley overturning. 16. Dodi her Brinks young it upwards of a year old. 25<sup>th</sup> a son of Mr Delong of Starksboro died. 23.d John Martin Son of Capt Martin died.

March. 18<sup>th</sup>. I went to the Richmond March Meeting. and received a present from Rev. S. C. Loveland of his. publication. the Christian Repository. 2 no's. 20<sup>th</sup>. Joseph Dike and Patience Bull married.

April-1st. Capt Jas. Stevens Jr. died. 5<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Martin, widow of Capt. Martin died. 11<sup>th</sup> Mr. Asahel Murray of R. died. 18. Jos Town's (2d) child died.

May-1st.-Dr. Nichols's house caught fire. but was extinguished without having sustained much injury. 5<sup>th</sup> Edward Allen Esqr had both his legs broke by the fall of a stick of timber. while taking down a barn. He belongs in Richmond.

June 9th. a frost which cuts corn to the ground. 15<sup>th</sup> Charles Brewster 2<sup>d</sup>, (second) child died. Same day. the F. B. Qua. M. hold in Richmond, I attended, Saw & heard much noise and wildfire, together with the self contradiction in preaching. peculiar to Arminianism. His Freewill Highness Pope Ziba\* was present, and tried to see how much noise he could make. 24 John Andrus. an Irish-

\* Elder Z. Pope. a very enthusiastic man

July. 1st. Jehiels youngest child died. 6. Some Quaker's held a meeting, at the schoolhouse (3<sup>d</sup> Dis.) 14. Capt. Leonard Hodges, of Williston had his house, barn, and other out buildings burnt. They took fire from a f llow. 22. Total Eclipse of the Moon. first since the 9. June 1816. Mrs Tyrrel. (relick of Enoch Tyrrel. deceased.) died.

August-3d. Anson Downer and Laura Caswell married. 6<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Bishop. wife of Daniel Bishop sr. and formerly. Widow Nichols, died. [Richmond]. 17<sup>th</sup> an infant of \_\_\_\_\_ and one he has lost.) \_\_\_\_\_ Williams and Susan Ellis married.

September-21<sup>d</sup> Freemens Meeting. James Ambler Jr. chosen Repr. 8. Trespass committed by our worse than no neighbor Roswell Stevens. in cutting down a bee tree. on. our land. and taking the honey. The measures which Stevens took to possess himself of the honey, cast. an indelible disgrace upon his name. Finding that Father. had discovered the encroachment, and ordered him and his boy off he took his gun. and went up. where he was, and by motions and threats endeavored to intimidate him from his own premises, till seeing George who that minute made his appearance with a gun, and without his having said a word or made a motion with it he (Stevens) wheeled short about and fled. leaving the pans. &c. which he had took to carry away the honey in, behind. He however went afterwards and got the honey.—10<sup>th</sup> a felon begun on my thumb. the first I ever had.

25<sup>th</sup>. Stevens was overtaken by the hand of justice, and committed to jail in B. for debt.

October-2. A man named Bingham died at Arte Farris. 4th. I saw, at Bosworth's in Richmond, the following animals, the Mammoth Lion, the Lioness and three whelps, two leopards. Panther. Mondrill, a large long haired kind of monkey and four smaller ones.

November-2. J. Calvin Fargo & Betsey Buttles married.—[And since that he has gone off and left her.]—10th. Some two legged creatures, who ought to have been abed and asleep, took an old lame horse. (in the night). cut off his ears, mane, and tail, and equipt him with an Side saddle of hemlock boughs, and rope for a crupper, and hitched him at Dr Nichols's door, apparently intended for his wife to ride upon, and who, justly fearing he was not sure footed, declined the offer.

Twas in the night these subtle wights  
This poney did prepare  
By taking sheers, to crop his ears  
And regulate his hair.  
A saddle soft, to sit aloft  
Of hemlock boughs they made  
That Miss might ride in pompous pride  
And hold the horse's head,  
The beast so good already stood  
In patience at the door  
But pride somehow would not allow  
Herself on him to soar.

---

*November 1823-*

21<sup>st</sup>. A young man named Jonathan Bunker burnt to death in his Cabin.

26<sup>th</sup>. Edward Martin and Lydia Man married. 30<sup>th</sup>. Porter Thomas Freewill preacher, and Sally Gillet married.

December. - 7. Bear hunt, a cub killed. 8. an old bear killed,—on this occasion, it is supposed, more than 100 people were out in pursuit. About this time Fred- Ambler's child died, in consequence of being severely scalded. 15<sup>th</sup> Charles Swift son of Lot Swift, was badly hart, by beeing thrown from a horse and dragged by his foot hanging in the stirrup. On a review of the circumstances, and of the ground and distance, over which he was dragged, it appear almost miraculous, that he escaped with his life as it is 3-4. of a mile, from where



he was thrown off to where he was found. besides. trees and stumps which strewed the way.

17<sup>th</sup> Truman Pierce and Polly Shuttuck married. William, Silas's son. born same day.

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## YEARLY CHRONICLES.

### MINUTES FOR THE YEAR 1824

January. The first week or ten days the ground cover'd with glare ice. 11<sup>th</sup> Snowstorm with high winds from the South. 4.<sup>th</sup> Solomon Buel Jr. and Abigail Ellis married. 17.<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Q. M. in Huntington. 18<sup>th</sup> I went to Richmond to Judge Brownson's and for the time saw the Boston Uni. Mag. which afforded me more instruction and pleasure than to hear twenty freewill sermons. Same day. Wm. M. Sexton, a relative from Upper Canada visited us. 21<sup>st</sup> the mumps made their appearance in the family. The evening of the 23<sup>d</sup>, a Comet seen in the N. E. part of the heavens at a considerable height, the tail projecting towards the S. E. This is the fourth comet. I have seen. the first was in Nov. 1807. 25<sup>th</sup>. I heard Mr. Kinsman preach at Richmond in the evening, and a good sermon it was too. Text Haggai. ii. 6. 7. He is the third universalist preacher that I have heard Dr. Wallace was present.—30<sup>th</sup>. I went to visit Mr. Thomas. the F. B. preacher's school. (kept at the schoolhouse near S. Hildreth's in Richmond, and from there Esqr. Stockwell's in Bolton. Next morning. 31<sup>st</sup>. went over. the (Onion) River. to Elder Webster's being desirous to see and reason with him upon his antipathy to Universalism.

February.—1<sup>st</sup>. Very Cold. the coldest day. that we have had this winter. 6. An infant of Preacher Thomas's died. 8<sup>th</sup>. heard Dr. Wallace preach in Richmond. 11. A rapid thaw. attended with high wind and rain which broke up the ice in the river. and caused a very high flood. 13. We are informed that the flood has destroyed three bridges on Onion River. Gideon Taft's wife died.—14<sup>th</sup> Enoch Dike, of Milton (son of Johnathan Dike. of this town) died March. 3<sup>d</sup>. Lucinda, wife of Alexander Frazier. of Essex. N. Y. died. She was daughter of Capt. Martin deceased. and is the fourth of the family who have paid the debt of nature. 7<sup>th</sup>. Joseph Easterbrooks.

died—15 Thomas King and Semantha Sprague married. 20<sup>th</sup>. Joel Remington's child died. 22 I had the misfortune to cut my foot, on the side of the joint of the great toe. 25<sup>th</sup> Cyrus Sumner, and Patty Farr married.—Somewhere about the last of the month. Abijah Beech of Hinesburgh. abused a black woman. After trying every way to seduce her. but in vain, he knocked her down. and then accomplished his wish. A hundred dollars are offered for his apprehension. April—on the night between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> John Clark's shop. wherein Taylor had put his potash, was broken open and the potash carried off. Information supposed, or known to have been given the thieves concerning where the potash was given by that most abandoned of all villains. Gail Nichols. the curse and bane of society. 15<sup>th</sup> Palmer Tracy and Jerusha Canfield married 18<sup>th</sup> Mrs Shattuck. wife of Mr Jonas Shattuck died suddenly. 17<sup>th</sup> Mr Daniel Bishop of Richmond. died. aged about 86. 22<sup>d</sup> Thomas Brownson died. 26. I went to Montpelier. first time in my life

May-4<sup>th</sup>, Cold, with squalls of snow, 14<sup>th</sup> Cold again with snow enough to whiten the ground. 23<sup>d</sup>. Temporary Quarterly Meeting of Methodists in Huntington. where Communion was held. Noise and wildfire, enough. 25. Very cold for the season. the mountains white with snow. 27. We understand that the college at Burlington is burnt. 28. Charles Stevens and Nelson Stevens, being instigated by the devil. made an assault upon Father threw him down. and endeavored to choak him. when the cry of Murder being made one came to his assistance. by which time these devils in human shape had fled. This transaction is twin brother to the bee tree scrape. 30<sup>th</sup> I went to the south part of Starksboro' first for nearly 15 years past.

June-1<sup>st</sup>. Training in Huntington, much quarreling. 2<sup>d</sup> Court between Father. and old Stevens and his boys. about the assault. afore mentioned. Began about 10' o'clock A.M. and continued till day-break next morning. and left undecided. Nelson Stevens swore false right out. and Dr Nichols. and his wife also told what they knew was a lie, which serves among many other things to show what cursed creatures they are. The Court adjourned to Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup>. 8<sup>th</sup> Wm. Irish. and Nat Martin had a battle and hurt each other badly with their hoes.—12<sup>th</sup> Court met again. a new jury summoned, and Charles Stevens was judged guilty. and Nelson acquitted. 13. Quar'ly Meeting in Duxbury. where more noise and wildfire was displayed than I ever witnessed before.—From the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> Cold back-

ward weather. which puts vegetation to a stand. 22<sup>d</sup>. Jeremy Remington. was badly hurt, by his waggon overturning and barrels falling upon him. some of his bones said to be broken. and dislocated. he was returning from Burlington. had got as far as Jon. Dike's in Richmond.

July-5<sup>th</sup> A man in Burlington. was badly hurt by the bursting of a cannon so that his life is despaired of.—(N.—Later accounts. say he is likely to recover). 11<sup>th</sup>. I went to Monkton, in the vicinity of the Pond. and to the Borough so called. where I saw Mr John C. Cook. a German. with whom I was formerly acquainted, say 15 years ago. Same day. Gideon Taft, was married to Lucy Kimbal. his second wife.—12<sup>th</sup>. Anson Downer's child died.

August-15 John Ellis's child died, N. B This is the third child of which he has been bereaved.—Same day. Levina, second child of John Judson. died. 20. I went to Burlington, where I behold the naked walls. and mutilated ruins of the U. V. 29. went to Duxbury and Moretown. 30 went on Duxbury Hill. made a little money. by the sale of some verses. I had with me.

September. 7<sup>th</sup>. Freeman's Meeting. James Ambler Jr re-elected Rep. 12<sup>th</sup> Charles Farnsworth. and Betsey Caswell married. 17. Dr. Nichols. and John Buttles. had a fray. Nichols assaulting and pushing him over.

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## YEARLY CHRONICLES.

### MINUTES FOR THE YEAR 1826

#### *January*

1st. Ira Martin, and Betsey Fargo married. 2<sup>d</sup> A heavy fall of snow. which makes the first good sleighing this winter,—8<sup>th</sup> heard that Esqr Stockwell of Bolton is in a state of mental derangement. 9. A great thaw which broke up the ice in the river and spoiled the sleighing. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Quartly Meeting of F. B. in Huntington. at which time some of the people had their horses harness out. sleigh-bells took off. and trace chains let out full length. (Done Saturday evening) 31<sup>st</sup> Very severe and cold. the coldest day not only this winter but for a number of past winters. Same evening. John Carpenter Jr. and Polly Derby married.



February. 13.<sup>th</sup> Ira Martin and Betsey Fargo married. 15.<sup>th</sup> Adelaide Nichols (youngest daughter of Dr N.) died. 21.<sup>st</sup> Old Mr. Jonathan Dike died. [It is proper to note that it is at this time, very sickly, a general complaint of bad colds being prevalent.] 26.<sup>th</sup> Ira Batchelder who had been committed to Burlington jail, broke out, and come up to Huntington, where an attempt was made to take him, but proved unavailing, a fray took place in which swords were used and some were cut, this was done to oppose searching the house. (John Fairman's). Since this we are informed that Batchelder stole a horse in Starksboro' and was pursuing his flight.—He has finally got away from all his pursuers, the horse he took was found in the road towards Middlebury.

March. 7.<sup>th</sup>. Annual March Meeting. 10.<sup>th</sup> heard that Ira Batchelder was caught in Newhampshire and is now lodged in Burlington jail. 16.<sup>th</sup>—Esqr Fargo and his wife have recently parted, having lived together better than six years. They had previously had an arbitration, at which it was decided that she should have what property she brought there with her and 170 dollars besides.

April. 10.<sup>th</sup>. C. Livermore having purchased Eben<sup>r</sup> Ambler's house, had it removed this day, across the road upon the piece of land he had bought of him. 11.<sup>th</sup> Uncommon cold weather for the season, the river froze over so as to bear a person. 13.<sup>th</sup> The second two story building in Huntington raised. (for Gurdon Taylor). 16.<sup>th</sup> George Martin's eldest boy severally scalded with syrup so that it is not expected he will live. 26.<sup>th</sup> Ebenezer Ambler Esqr—Died.

May.-3.<sup>d</sup>. Quite warm,—one of Fargo's sons died with the heat, —10.<sup>th</sup> A young man from Middlebury named Oliver Severance died, at Roswell Stevens's. He came up on a visit, and was taken ill the next morning. He was sick about 24 or 25 days. I was present, when he died, which is the first time I ever saw a person give up the ghost. 13.<sup>th</sup> or 14.<sup>th</sup> Ira Batchelder took in Plattsburg, and brought into Burlington where is now lodged in jail. The rumor therefore that he was taken in Newhampshire was incorrect. 26.<sup>th</sup>, old Mrs Caswell died.—29.<sup>th</sup> A cold rainy day, it was so cold that it snowed on the height of land.

June - 20.<sup>th</sup>. Artillery Training, same day, saw a stone in which it is pretended some persons can see hidden things, when placed in a hat, and darkened so as not to admit any light. I looked in, but could see nothing, nor have I any faith in the report. 21. Arrangements made for celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. 26.<sup>th</sup>. High winds

which did some damage, at least it tore up trees, and blew down fences. it was accompanied with. and followed by rain which raised the river considerably.

July-1<sup>st</sup>. Taylor raised his tavern sign. 3<sup>d</sup>. raised the liberty pole for the approaching celebration. 4<sup>th</sup> The fiftieth anniversary of American Independence. was celebrated in Huntington. James Ambler Jr Esq. was President Benj. Derby. and Lyman Hall Esq's Vice Presidents. The procession formed at J. Fargoes. under the direction of Heman Russel. Marshal of the day. and moved down to Gurdon Taylor's Inn. where the usual exercises of the day were performed, prayer by the Chaplain, Elder Curn. reading of the Declaration. of Independence. by the President. and the Oration by Chs. Livermore. The procession then took a turn or two. round the stage and dinner table, and then sat down to the dinner prepared for the day. The exercises were concluded. with giving toasts accompanied with the discharge of cannon. and music by the band.—This is the first celebration of our national jubilee, ever held in this town.—Same day. Woodbury Whitten. and Sally Bunker were married. 8.<sup>th</sup> Election of militia officers in Huntington. Ebenr Buell Chos. Captain. Hiram Brewster. Lieut. Joseph Mix. Ensign. 7. Darius Fargo Jr. and Loana Eddy married. 16<sup>th</sup>. Stephen Carpenter and Sally Cole married.

The Carpenter. as we do surely find Has took a Cols wherewith to mark his line The Newspapers bring the mournful tidings of the death of the venerable Ex-Presidents John Adams. and Thomas Jefferson. who departed this life on the 4<sup>th</sup> of the present month. 25<sup>th</sup> 26. & 29<sup>th</sup> It is an uncommon circumstance which has been noticed on these days that the clouds bringing showers or threatening it. came from the E. S. E. a thing I don't remember ever to have observed before. Down towards the south end of the lake we are informed it has been very dry, so much that the crops are parched up, and several have drove their cows up to this part of the country to pasture through the summer.

August. 4<sup>th</sup>. Two men came through the town. recommending themselves for curing. impediments in the speech or what is commonly called stuttering the process. which they keep secret. it is said has seldom or never been known to fail. 14<sup>th</sup> An Exhibition of puppet shows at Taylors in the evening. I attended. it being the first sight of the kind I have witnessed. The scenes represented were. 1. The Babes in the Wood. 2. Figures dancing representing girls

and boys. 3. A man swallowing his own head, and changing his face from white to black. 4 A man killed by a snake. 5. A man performing various feats of dexterity. 6. The Clown personated. 7. Timothy Norpost, a clownish character. The two last were living representations performed by the Master of the shows, incognito, and were very diverting performances.—15<sup>th</sup> Aaron Brown, & Widow Polly Moses married. 19<sup>th</sup>. Sylvester Derby and Mary Rowley married. 27.<sup>th</sup> Mr Martin Barber. (Richmond) died. Also the first rain of any consequence for twelve days past. 28<sup>th</sup> rain in abundance which is greatly refreshing to the earth

September. 5<sup>th</sup> Freemens Meeting James Ambler Jr. elected Representative. 10<sup>th</sup> Joseph Whitten, and Martha Fairman married,—Likewise—Frank Turner. (an Irishman) and Nancy Harvey married, the bridegroom belonging to Williston.—[.2d. A travelling man named John Wharff died in Huntington.] 14<sup>th</sup> old Mr David Caswell married to the Widow, old Mrs Dike. 17<sup>th</sup> Daniel Taft, and Sophronia Smith united in wedlock.

October. 14<sup>th</sup> Nichols's old log hut deserted, and pulled down, which for more than three years has stood as an offset to the school-house. 16.<sup>th</sup> went into the wool Factory in Hinesburgh, the first time I ever was in one. 17<sup>th</sup> Training day in Huntington. The Infantry and Artillery Co's both met.—Same evening Mr. Rees again exhibited, the puppet shows, before mentioned, at Taylor's inn where I was once more diverted, with the odd drollery of the Clown, and Timothy Norpost.—(N. As I have not hitherto described these personages, it may well to note, that he was dress'd in a white calico frock, and pantaloons an old peaked hat or cap, and had his face painted, white and daubed with black spots. Thus accoutered, he used many odd awkward gestures, and expressions with a voice much like a goose's gabbling. The farce concluded with the explosion of a gunpowder squib, on the back of his hat, fired by a candle held in the hand of the fiddler, as he was pretending to read an advertisement in a newspaper.

From Montpelier we learn that Ezra Butler is elected Governor, by a handsome majority. Also, that Horatio Seymore is reelected, Senator in U. S. Congress. 30. John Smith's youngest child died of the whooping cough which is prevalent at this time

November.-13<sup>th</sup> the streams frozen over it was so cold the night preceding—15<sup>th</sup> Heman Russel and Alexander Ferguson partners in trade, opened trade in goods at Taylors store. 13<sup>th</sup> Mr. Jacob



Fairman died. 25<sup>th</sup> R. Stevens having procured a run of millstones, turned his carting building into a grist mill. and this first put it in motion by water. 26. A High winds which did considerable damage. levelling fences. stacks and unroofing buildings. In one instance an ox was killed by the fall of a haystack. 30<sup>th</sup> Anson Jones. son of Edward Jones. Esqr. of Richmond, died.

December. 4<sup>th</sup>. Freeman's Meeting for a second trial for Repr. to Congress from the 4th District there being no choice at Sept. election. In Huntington the votes stand. for Heman Allen 45 Benjamin Swift 23. Scattering 1. 10<sup>th</sup> I saw (at Esqr Rhodes's in Richmond some curiosities. which I never before saw. viz. a number of muscle and scollop shells. from the sea; a kind of shell. of a fish called a horse first and the berries of the bayberry bush which contain tallow. 15<sup>th</sup> Joel Mise's youngest child died. 24<sup>th</sup>. Jonathan Greely and Sophia Storey married.

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Review of the Seasons; Crops, &c. The Spring was middling early. and the first. and second weeks in May. were uncommonly warm. Indian corn came on a middling good crop. Hay was rather more plenty than last year. and the people are generally well on it for hay. We had a pretty dry smoky spell for about 10 or 12 days in August.—The fall was very favorable for getting in crops No snow of any consequence fell to cover the ground till the very last week in the year.

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## A MEMORANDUM OF PROMINENT OCCURRENCES.

### DEATHS OF NEIGHBORS, ACQUAINTANCES, &C, FOR YEAR 1860.

January, 10th. Mrs. Julia Jones, wife of Edward R Jones, died—(Richmond.—

The papers report the occurrence of a terrible disaster, in the sudden falling in of the Pemberton Factory buildings in Lawrence, Mass, by which some 6, or 700 hands, male and female, were buried in the ruins, many of whom were taken out dead—many wounded, and some escapid unhurt.—

February. 6th. The papers announce the election at last, after be-

tween 7 and 8 weeks protracted fruitless contest, of a Speaker. Wm. Pennington of New Jersey, a Republican—

14th Orson Swift arrived home on his return from California

20th A bad accident happened to the child of Marshal Harvey, Jr. in its being severely scalded by falling into a pail of hot water, backwards.

26th The child of Harvey's just mentioned as having been scalded, died the latter part of the night past.—

27th. Stephen Cooper, died. (Richmond.—

March 8th. Mr. Browe got home from his year's absence at the west.

Mar. 23d Jane Lyman. (Taylor, that was.) died. (Duxbury.

April 11th Solomon's folks, removed out of the tavern, which they took last spring, back into the house they left—and Ansel Eddy's folks came back into it from Jonesville.—

15th John Allen, of Hinesburgh died.

18th A very crazy man, by name of Philips came to the tavern, and carried on wildly, and cut his hand badly with a knife. He was finally taken off home.

19th Cousin Jame Lloyd, came to town, to visit us, the first time for 15 years.

23d The National Proslavery Democratic Convention, met at Charleston, South Carolina, to nominate candidates for President and Vice President, where up to this date of May 4th owing to obstinate divisions and tied by a 2thirds rule, no nomination had been effected, the chief competition being between Douglass of Illinois, and Guthrie, of the former leading in the number of votes.

May 7th An unusual dry time there having been no moisture of any kind shed from the clouds for a fortnight, and the last was snow squall.

Seeing I have made allusion to the Charleston Convention—in this record, I may as well add here that it broke up without effecting any nomination owing to disagreement, and quarrel about the platform 10 southern state delegations bolting the Convention. Agreed to adjourn however to meet again at Baltimore, the 18th of June—

14th Noble Drew's folks left the neighborhood for the north middle part of New York state.

18th First rain sufficient to lay the dust for, 6 or 7 weeks, altho' it had snowed once or twice within the forepart of that time. Same day was marked by the advent into town of a number of Indians. First

of 3 male Indians of the Callapoah tribe from beyond the Rocky mountains, who had advertised to perform an exhibition of Indian customs and dances. Next a company or family of 15 other Indians, men and women.

16th. Was the meeting of the Republican National Convention, at Chicago. Where were nominated, Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, for President, and Hannibal Hamlin of Maine, for Vice President—

The company of Indians, spoken of, made a halt and pitched their encampment near the bend of the river, opposite the sandbank against Mr Beccher's.

23d I went up to Middlesex, to Charles Swift's, and from there to Montpelier, and back 25th, or 26th, Mrs. Landon, widow of Walter Landon, died, Hinesburgh.

Preceding this I learn that the forepoint of the same week, Mr. Royal Briggs, of Richmond, died June 2d. A large black bear, was killed on the hill, east between Dexter's Swift's pasture, and Heman Sprague's, where Charles Swift lately lived which weighed nearly 400 lbs. He was shot first by Wareham Crane and then by Jacob Johnson, and brought down to the north village, and exhibited on the green by the tavern—

July 6th or 7th Elizabeth Atkins Judson, (that was) died. (Stowe Vt.

18th Adjourned meeting of the Democratic National Convention and of Southern Seceders' Convention the one at Baltimore, Md. and the other at Richmond, Va. where after a renewed scene of quarrelling and secession of seceders. Stephen A. Douglass was nominated by the regulars, as candidate for President, and Benj. Fitzpatrick for Vice President, and by the Seceders, J. C. Breckenridge for President and Joseph Lane for Vice President. Subsequently Fitzpatrick decli the nomination for Vice President, and Herschel V. Johnson was nominated instead.

July 2, or 3d, Old Mrs. Squires of Richmond, died, being 100 years old last March.

July 10th Another bear, a smaller, and younger one killed in town on the back hill east, being caught in a trap.

28th Intelligence came to his friend in Huntington, of the death of Frederick Fitch, of Champlain, N. Y. We learn also of the death of Moses Dow, of Hinesburgh, who died about the 27th. Mr. Fitch died very suddenly in the night between the 27th & 28th.—



August 21st, Joseph Johnson got badly hurt by a fall from a building; the staging giving way.

Sept. 4th, Annual State Election Result in Huntington. For Governor, Fairbanks, Rep. 144 Saxe, D. D. 31 Harvey, B. D. 5, Congress, Baxter, Repub. 138, Chaffee, Douglas 129, Lyman, B. D. 4 Leonard C. Snider Rep. elected Representative, on the first ballot, by 29 majority.

11th, 12th & 13th State Fair at Burlington.

14th, Mrs. Fargo, (widow of Jabez Fargo Junr) died.

27th, I went out to Charlotte, on a visit, the first time for five years.—

29th. Wm Rhodes, Esq. died. (Richmond.)

October, 6th. An accident occurred in the evening of this day. Abner Loveland started for home to the south village on his return from the north, with a one horsewaggon having two girls with him one Jane De Witt, and the other a Miss Small, when the horse becoming frightened at something started on a run, ran up the road, broke the thills, and threw the girls out on the ground, hurting them on the head severely, but fortunately it is hoped not fatally The females were conveyed back to the tavern to be taken care of.

15th. First snow of the season, fell 4 inches.

18th Orvis Stevens arrived home from California where he been absent some 9 or ten years. Also Hiram Shattuck, from his second trip thither.—

19th Dr Bromley, and family arrived home, from their visiting tour, out west.

23d and 24th, I went to Middlesex, and Montpelier., (as far as Middlesex station, by railroad—) At Montpelier saw and was introduced for the first time to Hon. Justin S. Morrill, Member of Congress, 1st District.

November 2d. Learned that the State Treasurer, Bates, had proved a defaulter, for 50000 dollars of the State's money.—

6th Presidential election, for 1860. Result of the ballot in Huntington. For Lincoln, (Rep.) 119. For Douglas, and Breckenridge, Dcm. 14.—

10th Intelligence recieved by telegraph from the election in most of the states, published in the papers, announce the election of Lincoln, as our next President, all the Free states this side the Rocky Mountains, having gone for him, except New Jersey, which has

gone for the [Fusion] ticket, while there is a probability that Oregon has gone for him.

13th. Frances Chapin, came home to her father's after an absence of 14 months in Massachusetts.

December. 1st Intelligence reached the overseer of the Poor here—from the Superintendent of the Insane Asylum in Brattleborough, of the death of Luthera Judson, late of this town, who died in said Asylum on the 26th of November ult—of quick consumption.

5th. Recieved intelligence of the death of Cousin James Lloyd, late of Essex, who died on Sunday the 2d inst. at Burlington, (Vt.)

11th Elijah Hinkson, of Bolton, found dead in the road near Jonesville.

21st. Almira Rood, died.— It may not be amiss to mention here that the newspapers are ripe at this time with accounts of demonstrations made in South Carolina, of seceders from the Union in which they are abetted and seconded by Georgia, Alabama Florida and one or two other states, and all this on the foolish contumacious pretext of the election of Lincoln as President!

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## MEMORANDUM OF PROMINENT OCCURRENCES.

### DEATHS OF NEIGHBORS AND ACQUAINTANCES.

& FOR 1861.

January 8th Henry Tefft cut his foot, and the day before, the 7th, a French boy at Jonesville, in the employ of Safford Colby, had his arm cut off above his elbow by a horse power strawcutting machine.

24th Calvin Carpenter, frose his fingers, endeavoring to reach home in a severe storm, & blow. On the night between the 26th and 27th, Leonard Snider, had 5 of his sheep killed, and a number more badly wounded, by a couple of vicious dogs, ascertained to belong to Charles Kingsley, and Samuel Holcomb, of Starksborough. The dogs were killed forthwith, before they left the premises.— February 3.

3d, Bad rough icy travelling in consequence of a rain thaw which making it wet and slushy and slumpy in the routes, and afterwards freezing up in that condition renders walking peculiarly disagreeable.

6th Remarkable cold snowstorm unusually severe cold, roads blocked up with drifts in some places.—

And which was followed on the 12th by as remarkable a thaw, taking off most of the snow that had fallen, and breaking up the ice in the river.—

17th A singular spectacle of scattered snowballs, on the surface of the surface of a newly fallen snow.

March 4th or 5th, Daniel Nimblet of Hinesburgh died.

On the 4th. Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated President, and Hannibal Hamlin, as vice President of the United States at Washington D. C.—

11th Boxed up, and started on the way to Boston my fount of Pico type excepting a very few which I retain for contingencies.

14th Abigail Fitch died.

15th Joseph W. Allen, Attorney at law Richmond, died. He was the son of the late Heman Allen Member of Congress from this state

22d Rather a hard sickly time among the Johns, family. Heman having been first taken sick, and while watching with him, Wm. was taken also, and both are lying sick at their fathers, while their mother Patty is also ill, and lastly Mrs. Tefft was found on the floor of her room this morning in a fit, of which she had a number in the course of the day, and is of course in rather a bad way, tho' having in a measure recovered her senses at last accounts.—

April 4th. Old Mr. Philip Rubler a man aged upwards of 80 was found dead this morning in his bed.

Same day, (or evening,) saw Wesley Lewis, who is out on a visit to his friends in Vermont.—

Heman, Wm. Patty and Mrs. Tefft have recovered their health, pretty much.

16th Startling and exciting news from the South. Civil war begun, by the rebel batteries, opening fire on fort Sumter, in Charleston harbor, and which has had to surrender, whereupon President Lincoln, has issued an order for raising 75000 men, to march to retake the forts, and to order the rebel forces to disperse. Has also called an extra session of Congress to meet on the 4th of July next.—

22d. The Post office in Huntington removed to Joel Johnson's shop, he having been appointed Postmaster.—

29th. I went to Burlington, for the first time since Sept. 1860.



While there saw the volunteer troops that listed for the war at the south which paraded the streets, in the village

May 7th or 8th, old Mrs. Rhodes widow of Wm. Rhodes Esq. died. (Richmond.)

11th The Liberty pole, and Flag of the Stars and Stripes, raised at the North village, on which occasion many people attended, and a patriotic demonstration made by marching in procession to martial music, and addresses made, and discharge of cannon—

14th The old Starch Factory, that escaped the Great flood, of 1858, removed from its place back of the tavern, for a woodshed.

16th. Saw David Caswell, 2d, from Ohio, who is out on a visit to his relatives in Vermont

17th Heard that Davis Tucker, Esq. of Hinesburgh, formerly a resident in Huntington, is dead.

22d Leonard Snyder, is visited with rather a hard reverse of fortune in having all his property attached on his Boston debts.

25th Mrs. Leonard Haskins, in the edge of Starksboro', next to Buel's Gore, was delivered of three children at one birth, all boys.

28th. The Flag pole raised at the North village on the 11th, broke off the last night by a strong wind.

June 3d. Went to Middlesex, on a visit to Charles Swift's & Benj. Chase's.

9th Heard that Jesse Green formerly, of Richmond, is dead.— Francis Carl, of Starksboro' died

11th Went and saw Haskins's three infants, mentioned, a little way back.

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I take occasion here to say that the information mentioned on a preceeding page of the death of Davis Tucker, Esq. is not correct; that he is still living, (Wonder why people should report such false remors?.)

17th. I have to record the death of Mrs. Cornelia Smith, wife of Alfred Smith, of Starksborough—

28th raised a new Flag pole at the North village, (of Huntington.

July 1st. A comet to be seen at night about these days.—

21st Caroline Ellis died.—

28th News came in the papers of this day, that George Lewis, of the 2d Vt Regiment, engaged in the battle at Bull's Run, Va. is missing probably either killed or taken prisoner.

The women in this town, are engaged on a requisition from the Governor, about these days, in making shirts, drawers, and sheets—&c. for the soldiers in service from this state.

31st. Sewing Bee at the North village meeting, making up shirts, sheets, drawers, towels, and bandages for the soldiers.—

August 10th, Daniel Scofield, Esq—died.—

13th Saw Mrs. Margaret Johns Cyrus's wife, who is up from New York on a visit to Vermont.

19th. Wilson Philips's barn, burnt to the ground with all its contents, being full of hay, said to have been done, by boy carrying matches into it or about it.—

I should have mentioned before this that Geo. Lewis, has been heard from, by way of a letter from him that he was a prisoner of war in Richmond, Virginia.—

29th Within the week, two serious accidents have occurred in the town or its vicinity, viz. Mrs. Reuben Derby, had her thigh broke by a fall. And a girl of the name of Ross about 10 or 11 years old, was accidentally shot yesterday, of which it is thought she will die.—Later accounts state that the girl is likely to get along and recover.

Sept. 3d. Annual State Election in Vermont. Leonard C. Snyder reelected Representative from Huntington. The vote for state and County officers, (some 137 in number) nearly unanimous for the Republican ticket.

6th Henry Brewster got hurt by the fall of a stick of timber while at the base of Shattuck and Norton's Saw mill building

10th I went to Underhill, to visit Enoch's folks, not having been there before in eight years.

16th Elizabeth Browne, having married Elisha Judson a short time previous started with him this day for St. Lawrence Co. N. Y. for a new home. About the 18th, 19th, and 20th, Dr. Cyrus Johns from N. Y. city came up on a visit to his friends in Vt. though I did not see him myself.—

October 8th, Martha Jones, (Ed Jones' eldest girl) died.

The day before, Loren Browne was prosecuted and fined 10 dollars for beating his wife.—

22d I went to Montpelier once more for an annual trip thither.

About this time, is developed a new and not very acceptable move on the part of Nathan Bickford, in appropriating the head of the lane against our house, for a building spot, on which to erect a shoe shop, being rather too near us to be agreeable.

Nov. 1st, Saw a notice in the papers of the death of Seth Green, late of Williston, who died in California, recently—Son of Iddo Green.—

13th Information came to town of the death of Wm. Drinkwater who died at the Asylum in Brattleboro' Vt. whither he had been carried from this vicinity a short time ago.—

17th Sheep killed by dogs near the South village, for which, as in a former case the dogs paid the forfeit of their lives.

Also about this time, she that was Almira Downer, formerly James Ross's wife, and latterly married to a Mr. Leathers, died.

20th Charles E. Livermore's wife died Hinesburgh.

21st Abel Wyman, of Hinisburgh, died very suddenly in a fit, on his way to Burlington.

30th. Saw Orson Swift, who came to town, since his return from Michigan.—

December 2d Recieved a package of one Ream of Writing Paper, from Benton, & Jones, Bennington Vt. which came to Jonesville by Express.

8th Mary Browne died.

About the 16th or 18th, Geo. Morrill, and Alfred Bates, had, their (live) poultry stolen over night by some thief or thieves.

Some alteration made in things about house, the old door way facing north closed up and anew one made on the south side, and a bedroom parted off on the north side. Done about the 23d and 24th.

26th Intelligence comes in the papers, of the death of Prince Albert of England, Queen Victoria's husband.—

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## CALEB COVETWIFE'S MARRIAGE;

OR OUT OF THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE. A STORY FOR  
ABUSERS OF OLD BACHELORS.

### *Chapter I.*

'Well I declare; and so our neighbor Caleb has really got him a woman at last', was the exclamation of aunt Debby Doughnut, as she heard of the wedding that came off at Sam Shanker's in Bardscrabble Hollow, the day but one before that on which this interesting piece of news reached her ears through the eager communicative-



ness of Dame Grudgenought, her nearest neighbor, who had called over that morning. it seems, on purpose to relieve herself of the burden of so important an item of intelligence, 'and pray who had the honor of tying the knot, if I may be so curious as to ask?' 'Well' answered the aforesaid retailer of gossip, 'it was 'Squire Scroggins, I think they said, who was sent for privately in a hurry, and he did it up for them in a true Connecticut style.' 'Indeed, wal, I hope now he's madeout to get him a wife at last that he will take comfort with her,—if he can. He's been in such a taking to get married, and has tried so hard these two years, to find some body that he could get to accept him, that it would be a real pity if he should not.' 'Sure enough' replied dame Grudgenought, 'and I hope no body will be malicious enough to interfere to hinder him; for between you and me. aunt Debby, it won't bea long while. (in my opinion,) before what sweet he gets of her will be turned sour, and bitter enough.'

Now Caleb Covetwife, the subject of the conversation just rehearsed, was a shoemaker by trade, and had passed his days until within the short period referred to in a state of single blessedness, he being now about thirty seven, not that he had been contented all this time with his condition of exemption, for be it known that he had, as intimated in the colloquy, between our two worthy dames afore-named, been essaying his best to change his aforesaid state of liberty. for the venture. some one of matrimony, but had not until within a few days succeeded in his undertaking. In order that the reader may judge something of the extent of the chances he stood with the fair daughters of Eve in the matrimonial market, it may be well to describe his personal appearance. He was short in stature, thick set, with a stoop in his shoulders, the natural result, it is presumed of his being so habitually bent over the bench. in his work. His head was bald over the top of the crown from his forehead to what is designated by phrenologists as the 'bump of phrenologistitiveness', on the back part; while what of hair was left on the sides. and the nape of his neck, was of that carrotty hue, between light and red, called 'sandy'. He was moreover squint eyed, & his nose twisted somewhat to one side. Such was the personal appearance and physiognomy of our newly made Benedict, Caleb Covetwife, which last cognomen we have assigned him as being characteristic of the anxious wish which for the last three years to make of some one of the race of woman. a Mrs. Caleb Somebody. with whom to share his bed and board. he had strove with assiduity. It may be as well to state here

by the way that our son of Crispin, the aforesaid knight of the lapstone and pegging awl, had managed for some time previous to keep house. a sort of part bachelor's hall, and part mistress kept house; that is hiring a woman housekeeper when he felt as if he could afford it; at other times doing his housework himself. in which he succeeded tolerable well, or so as to make out a comfortable living: besides if he did not feel quite contented with his loneliness, and often wished for a female dulcina on whom to lavish fond caresses, he had the advantage of having all his bed to himself, with no one to crowd him. or annoy him by drawing the clothes off. kicking, or reading him curtain lectures, on his staying out late and coming to bed after she had got to sleep, and then when up about house, he had the advantage of having his own way. and acting his own judgement, without being scolded at, if things were not done up, and the room kept quite so nice, as it ought to be, which might sometimes be the case for want of time to make it so, which occasional remissness he could put up with, as knowing that nobody but himself was responsible. When occasionally he had a housekeeper, which for the most part was Miss Tabitha Tuckle, a maiden lady of forty, or thereabouts, he had little if any occasion to find fault, the work was not slighted. It was under circumstances like these, which if they were not what a mate-coveting man would be altogether contented with, were to be envied compared with the life to be led with a slut or a scold, that Caleb set himself about laying siege to the heart and hand of Miss Hannah Hetchel, the lady who on the occasion referred to at the commencement of our story, he had led to the hymenial alter, as his wife and destined housekeeper. How far he succeeded in realizing the comfort and happiness he hoped and sought for in such an acquisition to his board and bed; how much he found his condition improved by such a change in his condition, may appear hereafter. Meantime it may be well enough to observe by the way that a goodly share of his anxiety to better his condition and increase his responsibility, arose from the pragmatistical suggestions and rallyings of sundry of his patronizing neighbors, who were ever and anon representing to him, the propriety and duty of his marrying quoting by the way the words represented in the Bible as being spoken by God after having made Adam as the first man, 'It is not good for man that he be alone', As if the being the better for having a companion did not depend on the character, capability, and temper she displays. Influenced by such artful plausible promptings on the

part of these officious meddlers, to regard his single blessedness, as a stigma, and dishonor to his position as a man setting out in the world, Caleb was led to the conclusion that he was indeed remiss in his duty to himself and society in general in remaining longer without a 'helpmate', with whom to spend the journey of life together. Hence he had succeeded after a short courtship in persuading Miss Hannah to become his bride, without having been particular to ascertain as to her possessing the qualities tending to make her an agreeable and profitable companion, for man, but which by the way according to the loose unqualified logic of rampant matrimony-recommenders, there was no need of his doing; the great point being to marry at any rate, and so obey the injunction, not to be alone! It may not be amiss before closing this chapter, to give the reader a few passing specimens of the kind of reception of his preceding he says at heart and hand seeking, met with from some of the fair samples of Nature's human workmanship. Among the first to whom he essayed to pay his addresses, was Miss Caroline Carelitt, a bustling maiden of twenty seven, who after hearing his proposal turned the cold shoulder to him with the sarcastic remark that she should want him to put a gypsum plaster on his head to make his hair grow over it before she could think of marrying him, which of course served as a sufficient answer to his suit in that quarter. Thus foiled in the essay with Caroline his next trial was on the good graces of the Widow Thankful Thurlow, who whether it was that she thought of and believed the proverb, 'a shoemaker's wife, and a smith's mare, are always worst shod.' and therefore did not wish to be so near him but that she could get her understanding improved forth with to order, or that she had other reasons equally cogent, for not wishing for him as a second husband, after vainly endeavoring to shake him off with the intimation that she did not care about changing her situation at present, had recourse at length to the summary process of brandishing that formidable weapon known as the broomstick, over his thereby endangered scance, before which of course he prudently made his retreat, convinced that if such was the way she was likely to make her consequence felt if he took her to wife, the acquisition was not so very desirable. Such is a specimen of the reception which the advances made by Caleb Covetwife, towards the women in the way of setting a matrimonial trap; to say nothing of other instances where the failure was not quite so pungent. But he had finally seen his amorous campaign crowned with success; had now secured what



he had so long and anxiously sought, a wife: who was to be installed into the duties of the household, of which he hoped to be as he had been heretofore, the rightful master. How far his visions of happiness which his fancy saw pictured in the future, were realized, will be seen in the sequel of our story.

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## *Chapter II.*

A month has elapsed, and Mrs. Hannah the wedded wife of Caleb, the shoemaker had become tolerably domesticated beneath the roof which he was wont to call his home, which by the way was a small one story wooden building, the exterior of which had once been painted red, but which the effects of the weather had nearly effaced. The house contained three small rooms, besides the buttery and closet, while up stairs it was all one common receptacle of whatever lumber had not been taken away by the former occupants, old bedsteads, parts of spinning wheels, that had parted company, and braided husks of corn that had been hung up, once, and the ears used off, together with other loose articles of no consequence. Under all was a cellar, not spacious but of sufficient dimensions to store away sauce enough for family use. Such in short is a description of the premises owned by Caleb, into which he had to introduce his bride, which we have thought fit to give, that the reader may have some idea of the sort of domicil in which she was installed as lady housekeeper, the floor of which was uncarpeted and unpainted. Miss Hannah had been by the way been accustomed to carpets and having things nice about house, curtains and neat furniture. It may be easily guessed therefore that coming in as she did to superintend this her husband's more plainly furnished dwelling and finding it bare of what she felt to be necessary to decent tidy housekeeping, she felt it did not agree with her taste nor promise much like feeling in her element at home. 'Caleb', said she one day to him as he sat in the corner smoking his pipe. 'I should think you might afford to furnish our house a little more trim and decent than it looks now. If you can't, or at least, if you don't, I'll be for taking myself off.' 'Sho, now woman, pray don't go to putting on airs in that way, don't; Why, ain't my house furnished well enough? Haven't we a good bed, table, and chairs, and things to cook in? Why, I'm sure there's enough here to make us comfortable, what more can you

want?’ ‘Well furnished, and comfortable enough!’ retorted she in a sneering tone ‘if that’s your idea of being well furnished and comfortable, it ain’t mine. Bed, table, and chairs, indeed you have, such as they are, but they ain’t nice and decent, such as a body ought to have to appear decent before visitors, not by a good deal. Why, I should be ashamed to have any of my folks and acquaintance come here to see how shabby it looks here.’ ‘You should, ha?’ said Caleb, ‘well then of course I shouldn’t advise you to invite them here, only try and make the best of it you can, yourself, is all I ask.’ ‘Make the best of it I can!’ retorted she in the same sneering tone, ‘do you think, Caleb Covetwife, that I would want to come here to live with you as your housekeeper, and not want to have things look neat and fit to be seen and have folks come to see us once in a while? If I’d have known this was going to be the case, I’d have be’n hanged before I’d have had you for my man, you baldheaded crooked nosed squint eyed creature you!’ ‘Tut, tut hold on there now,’ exclaimed Caleb, touched to the quick at this allusion to his personal peculiarities, ‘don’t go to bullragging a body about what you knew well enough before you married me. I’m very sorry my house furnishing don’t suit you better, for it is the best I can afford under the circumstances. Believe me too when I say on my part, if I supposed you would be so dissatisfied with my house as it is, I would not have got you for a wife to put in it. Hark now and do hear me out’ he interposed, seeing her about to break in with an answer. ‘Now would it not be well to look a little on the other side and ask why if you dislike my table, bed, chairs and other fixings you could not have bought and brought on better ones? You were at full liberty to have come and looked at my house before we were married, if you had chose to do so, and you are welcome now if you’ve got any of your own, that will suit you better, to bring it in, and I’ll take mine out of sight.’—Here Caleb paused while his till now excited rib being met thus on her own ground, rather gave in and cooled down, somewhat though not quite satisfied, as all the apology she had to make in reply, he having referred only to what he knew to be true as well as she, was that she had trusted too much to his providence in seeing that the house was properly furnished, short sighted simpleton that she was. So notwithstanding the petulant expression of dissatisfaction with the state of the house, Mrs. Covetwife remained, disposed to endure, not indeed without occasional grumbling the crosses of her allotted share of matrimonial life beneath his roof. As it was, Caleb when

he entered his shop to his work, after the conclusion of the colloquy between himself and his 'better half,' whom indeed he had taken for 'better or for worse,' could not help indulging some not altogether comforting reflections on the double row he had took on himself to hoe in the checkered field of life; his thoughts evidently running in this wise: 'Ah! ah!' said he to himself as strapping a half finished shoe on his knee, he commenced piercing peg holes with his awl, 'if this is a specimen of what I am to expect in the way of matrimony, I'm like to get as much bitter as sweet and more too. Fool that I was, to be swapping my liberty and peace for the noose of wedlock to get harnessed in with a scold. It is too bad; but I am in for it, and there is no help, except either to run away myself, or make the house too hot for her and compel her to clear.' However, unpleasant as such reflections were to one who had taken so much pains to compass the cause of them, Caleb wisely concluded to make a virtue of necessity in his situation and try to get along, as well as he could, though it must be acknowledged he sometimes found his patience tried in various ways, as sometimes she would make his tea too weak, sometimes too strong, for not being a tea drinker herself, she did not understand so well the due regulation of the quantity requisite for making the decoction of the right quality. It would have saved her much trouble on that score had he followed her example, in dispensing with this kind of beverage. Nor was this the only item in the line of matrimonial annoyances to which our two folded knight of the lapstone and pegging awl was subjected. It was at night after he and his worser half, as he began to consider her, had retired to bed, that any waggish eavesdropper, who had a quick ear and listened under the window of the bed room outside, might have overheard occasional snatches of behind the curtain talk like the following, 'Do, for mercy's sake, keep your arms off me, hugging me so close.'—'Can't you lie still? what do you want to be kicking my shins so for?'—'There now, get out you stinking creature you; so like an old horse, will you? I'm a good mind to get up and go to bed up chamber.' together with sundry other outbreaks on the part of each, the tenor of which modesty does not admit of our reciting here. Though Caleb had made up his mind when he took Hannah in beneath his roof to be his companion to bed & board, like a dutiful husband, to try to overlook and bear with any petty faults, and peculiarities she might exhibit, he was not long in finding his patience and forbearance severely tried, even where her temper



was not concerned. With all her pride, and wishing for fine furniture, with which to set off her house, she was not overcareful or particular in doing all her work as it should be, making divers blunders, such as sewing on buttons on the wrong side of a shirt collar, scorching the linen in ironing, it, &c. As a matter of course, a shoemaker's wife generally is expected to do the binding of shoes, especially thin lined ones; and Caleb at first entrusted it to her, till finding she did not or would not do the work well, he resolved rather than have his custom suffer at her hands, to let out the binding, (as he had done before his marriage,) to a widow lady, Mrs. Sewall, who lived near by. As he was under the necessity of carrying his work to her to be done, or sometimes she would come to his shop to bring home what she had bound, and take more work, Hannah observing him to go to Mrs. Sewall's, often, as well as the woman come to his shop, began, as she foolishly thought, to 'smell a rat', that is to say in plain language, she begin to entertain feelings of jealousy, towards, or at least she pretended to, thinking there was something amiss about it, that he was looking to and treating her with more favor, and being more thick with her than was becoming the faithful husband of another, whereupon as he came into the house at sunset one evening to supper, she commenced a tirade with saying 'Mrs. Sewall is a very agreeable woman to visit with I presume' eyeing him as she spoke, with a significant look, 'she and you seem to like to visit one another pretty often.' 'Why yes' he replied, 'I think she's a nice woman and a good neighbor to live by don't you?' 'She's agreeable to you, no doubt, I dare say' replied Hannah sneeringly, 'much more than she is to me. Wonder why you did not make a bargain with her instead of me, and marry her? A pretty faithful husband you are indeed to be poking your head after another woman, and she sticking her nose into your shop every day or two. You need not think, Caleb Covetwife, but what I've got eyes to see with, and they are on you'. 'What now?' said he, 'what have I done, that you are smelling the rat so about? Can't I get a woman to bind shoes for me, and take them to her to do, and she bring them to me when they are done, without raising a hornet's nest of jealousy about my ears? I am very sorry if I can't' 'O' said she, 'it's a very plausible excuse, of yours, about binding shoes for you, I dare say. Why don't you get me to bind them for you?' 'So I should, and so I have' answered Caleb, 'but you don't, or won't bind them good, and somebody must do it, or I can't do my work to suit, and it's all the concern I have

with Mrs. Sewall to have her bind them for me, and she bring them as they are done. So if you go to kick up a muss, about that, you are showing yourself jealous without just cause.' Such was Caleb's vindication to his wife, and which one would think ought to have been sufficient to calm and convinced her of his innocence, had she any of that charity which thinketh no evil, at least not willingly, and so it should. Not so the obstinately jealous Hannah who as if resolved not to be convinced, or else to plague him whether or no, replied to all he had offered in self defence. 'I be, eh? Well you may make me believe this if you can. I'll see if I am to live with a man who sticks his nose after other women, pretending to get work done of them, for an excuse to try to pull the wool over other people's eyes. I tell you Caleb Covetwife, I'll not sleep with you another night, if you don't steer clear of that woman for time to come, that I won't.'— 'Well' said Caleb, 'do as you like, I shall have the bed to myself and sleep in peace in that case'. 'Yes' said she, 'only when you have a share of the widow's, which I dare say you'd be for taking, for all being content to sleep alone'. 'Well' replied her spouse, whose spirit was roused by this ungenerous imputation of conjugal unfaithfulness. 'I guess she would make quite as agreeable a bed-fellow, and as likely a one, as you, any how; 'O you adulterous serpent you!' exclaimed his wife, now losing all patience at hearing herself thus belittled, and with that she caught up a pan of middling hot water, and dashed over him, part of it in his face, and over his clothes to the spattering him well over, and almost scalded him to a blister, whereon to return the compliment he ran to the waterpail which was half full of water which he seized and dashed the contents over her giving her a good drenching, saying as he did so 'there take that, and cool your jealous passion.' Hannah on receiving this salute, after shaking her clothes and wiping her face, and neck of the effects of the ablution, snatched up and put on her bonnet, declaring she wo'd not live with him another day, bolted out of doors and made her way up the street apparently in the direction of her brother-in law's, who lived about a mile and a half distant, from beneath whose roof Caleb had married her and taken her home; probably there to lay before them the story of her wrongs, and his unfaithful conduct, as she persisted in construeing his dealings with Mrs. Sewall. Meanwhile Caleb, our unjustly suspected cobbler who felt himself in this matter of the splashing, more sinned against than sinning, was not inclined to believe that Hannah would actually for-

sake him forever, but that she would return, ask his forgiveness, and making up the matter be reconciled to live with him as became a dutiful wife. In this conjecture he was partly correct, and partly mistaken, for though she did return after being absent about twenty four hours, it was in company with her brother-in law, and sister who on their arrival entered into a long conference with Caleb on the subject of their (his and Hannah's.) difficulties, representing to him the propriety of his having more regard for her feelings, than he appeared to have done, and their trying to live together in peace, to which Caleb replied by assuring them that he had always endeavored to live peaceable with her, and had not presumed to treat her harshly till she gave way to the burst of passion in throwing hot water upon him, and that he had not the least idea of being remiss in his duty to her in his dealings with Mrs. Sewall, whom he had only employed to bind shoes for him. Finally it was agreed after a long talk, and a compromise between him and his wife, that she should learn to bind shoes better and to do her best to help him, in his business, thus enabling him to dispense with the services of the widow which had been the cause of so much annoyance and jealousy to her. With this understanding did Caleb and his wife enter into a new treaty to endeavor to jog along together in the path of matrimonial life in which they succeeded tolerable well with only the exception of a little occasional scolding on her part now & then, till at last an untoward event occurred which put an end to all occasion for further forbearance on his part, and grumbling on hers, so far as he was concerned; an event compared with which to have found her dead and followed her to her grave, would have been a consolation, and credit to both besides.

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### *Chapter III.*

Two years had elapsed since the incidents set forth in the last chapter, had transpired. Caleb taking advantage of a slack in the business of his shop, to enjoy a little respite from the confined labor over his bench, lapstone, and awl, in making a visit to some old friends and relatives of his in a town some twenty five or thirty miles distance, to which place as the railroad from Boston to New York ran but a few miles off, he took passage in the morning train, leaving his other, (we can't say better,) half, to keep the house, as he



hoped, till his return; she not caring to accompany him, nor was he at (all) anxious that she should do so. There he was received by his friends with whom he was fain to spend a week or ten days. Among the friends with whom he stopped was his old schoolmate Harry Rogers, and his lady Janet, who having understood that he was married, previous to his coming, inquired of him why he did not bring his wife with him, and almost scolded him for not having done so. For this he was fain to offer the best apology he could, averring that she was not accustomed to visiting out, and besides was afraid to trust herself in the cars for fear of accidents. It was during his visit here that Caleb had a dream which caused him unpleasant feelings on awaking in the morning as raising queries in his mind whether or no it did not point to something which he was destined to realize. He dreamed that he had set out on his return home, when as he came in sight of his house, he beheld a black cloud of smoke pouring out of the door which stood open, and looking with concern at the dismaying spectacle, he saw what appeared to be the Evil One emerging from the smoke, with wings spread out for a flight and bearing in his arms Hannah his ill fated spouse, who did not seem to make any outcry or resistance, by any apparent struggle, with whom soaring aloft some fifty or sixty feet into the air, he suddenly descended to the earth into an old potatoe hole that was left open in a field not far distant where they disappeared from sight, the ground closing over them. The horror & trepidation occasioned by the fearful vision awoke him trembling all over nor did he hardly close his eyes again that night. Still not withstanding the unpleasant nature of his dream, and the inward disquietude it occasioned him, our cobbler preferred locking it in his bosom, to disclosing to his friends, until at least something sho'd turn up to make the disclosure more appropriate. After spending a little more than a week among his friends Caleb at last took the cars on his return, and leaving the station where he quitted them, proceeded on towards home. Approaching his house and opening the door, how was he disappointed on finding no one there, although things remained pretty much as he left them, when he went away. As he looked round the house after his entrance and cast his eye on the table his attention was directed to a slip of paper, on which something was written. Taking it up and looking over the writing, what was his surprise and concern on reading the following which was evidently written by his wife. 'To Caleb. This is to bid you good bye. Having found

more preferable company in a gentleman who has called since your departure, I have chosen to avail myself of it, and ere you return to read this, shall be far enough away; so you need not trouble yourself to follow in hope to find me, for it is not likely I shall return to keep your house and company while I live                   Hannah.'

'So ho then', said Caleb to himself 'this explains the meaning of my dream. She has been made away with by some seducing imp of Satan, and may she get enough of him if she is better suited.'— Here it will be well to observe by way of explaining this circumstance, of his being thus deserted, that he learned from one of the neighbors to whom it was known, that soon after Caleb's leaving home on his aforesaid visit, a man who was making a stop in the vicinity where they lived, and who said he was from the south, happened to make a call at his house one day, and became acquainted with his wife, whom finding to be sociable, (for sociable indeed she could be when in a right humor.) and she being lonesome, it led him to repeat his visits. This new acquaintance of hers, unfortunately it seems for her husband's interest, and her own fidelity and virtue as a wife was a person of handsome features, and winning address, so that he completely stole her affections, and he being governed by no scrupulous moral principle, took advantage of this his illicit conquest to propose an elopement, to which she being completely under the influence of her unlawful passion too readily consented. And about four days previous to Caleb's return, saw her and her guilty paramour, whose name we must not forget to say, was Stanford, on their way to the south; she having capped the climax of her infidelity in having the impudence to pen and leave on the table for Caleb the ungracious note, the purport of which we have already given. Such, gentle reader, was the upshot and end of the marriage of Caleb Covetwife the shoemaker, which he had so long and anxiously sought, thinking there by to better his condition; whence he, (or she, as the sex may be,) may draw their own inference, as to whether he was better off or happier for the change of condition. Point if you please, to the offset afforded in the more fortunate choice and lot of others, which we will not deny, our story counts but one instance, for it is no whole cloth fiction, further than in name and coloring of incident! towards proving that those who marry run great risk of rendering their condition worse by their choice than before; a chance which they avoid by remaining single, if they can content themselves to be so. As to the truant wife, whom we have

presented as deserting, her rightful lord, we never heard from her, or her paramour afterwards, and he who was the wronged husband in the case, has thought it wisest on the whole, never again to venture his neck in the so hazardous noose of matrimony.

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*End of Caleb Covetwife's Story.*

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A DREAM, AS IS NOT ALTOGETHER A DREAM.

(A Satire on Unqualified recommendation of Marriage.)

It was not long since that between poring over the columns of a newspaper I had took up, a paragraph of which contained a slur on old bachelors, and having but recently heard a verbal remark to the same effect, I fell asleep, and as is usually the case, my senses locked to outward scenes, wandered into the land of dreams. I thought I was in a vast court where was assembled an immense multitude of people of both sexes, and of all ages, looks dresses, characters and capacities, which I was told was the (till now,) unmarried population of America. Looking round me, I saw perched on a platform, a reverend looking man who was addressing the multitude on the imperious duty of every one getting married, now coaxing and telling how happy the marriage state is, and now scolding at old bachelors and maids, as having disobeyed the ordinance of Nature in not mating themselves in the chains of Hymen, and concluded with a general invitation to all to come up before him and be married, and so obey the divine injunction; whereupon me thought the multitude came flocking up to the priest's altar, where they were pronounced man and wife by scores of couples at a time, those going to be married, coming up on one side, & those already married, leaving it on the other. They that loved mutually came smilingly up, but a good many had to lay hold of and drag their intended bride along by force, crying 'O we must be married, you must, you must! And here amidst the confusion I saw and heard the parents of a poor idiot, or half witted son or daughter, begging them to let him, or her go, for he, or she, was not fit to be married. 'Hold your tongues,' roared the priest, 'it's the duty! of every son and daughter of man to be married, and they shall be, fools tho' they are!' Then I looked

after those that were going away married, and saw some of the couples a fighting and separating. Others were so lame and feeble, they both fell down, and had to be helped up and along by others; while the poor witless or half witted ones in undertaking to keep house, set it afire by their carelessness, and were burnt up in it themselves. Finally I thought that in conformity with the decree of this Pope Brazenface Marryall, I was myself married to a great swarthy corpulent feminine that was left me whom on coming to a river I undertook to carry across on my back, when down into the water we both went, on which I awoke, rejoiced to find myself still free, A Bachelor.

*The End.*

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## THE CATAMOUNT HUNT

*John's serious attempts at poetry are filled with echoes of the characteristic poetry of his day. When he turned to local incidents, his verse begins to take on a folk-flavor and an originality of its own. The catamount has been a recurrent theme in Vermont history and legend for one hundred and fifty years. The certain-to-be graduate student whose thesis will be titled "The Vermont Catamount in Legend and Story" should not overlook this contribution to his cause. The verses were written at Huntington, July 19, 1842. Editor.*

Twas on one summer afternoon  
The sixth of month July  
A scream was heard that pretty soon  
Brought men and guns near by.  
They thought it was a Catamount  
Upon the mountain west  
Who chose to give us his account  
When he his speech address'd.  
With nimble heels the hunters run  
To find the creature's roost,  
And bring him with ball of gun  
And o'er the victory boast,  
O'er rock and knoll they scour'd the hill  
The beast for to surround



Twas now and then they heard the yell  
That on the ear did sound.  
Among the crew there was a chap,  
I need not tell his name,  
A tall long legged buckle strap  
Among the rest he came.  
He follow'd on with Bose behind  
All fierce to find the cat,  
When pretty soon as we do find  
He found himself land flat.  
And here the dog took him for log  
As he jump'd o'er the fence  
And by his weight immers'd his pate  
In mud to his content.  
How'er our hero scrambled up  
And took another start  
And had the creature seen his face  
He'd been most awful scar't  
The hunters follow'd bravely on  
Ransacking every quarter  
Until at length they came upon  
A little run of water  
And here they found the Catamount  
That sent forth all this screeching  
Who in the shape of water wheel  
Complained he wanted greasing.  
And here it seems they left the imp  
Who still at them was grinning  
No doubt they tho't he was so fierce  
He might be dangerous skinning  
Some say the Catamount tho' bold  
And ever bent on slaughter  
Is scar'd at fire, but this it seems  
Was very fond of water.



## BOOK NOTICES

*In this department of the Proceedings brief reference will be made to significant publications which have some definite bearing on Vermont history in any of its phases. The editor will welcome information regarding such publications, no matter where published. Books intended for notice should be sent to the editor.*

ST. ALBANS RAID. Compiled by JOHN BRANCH, SR. 67 pp. St. Albans, Vt. John Branch, Sr. 1935.

Mr. Branch states in his "Foreword" that his "purpose in publishing this pamphlet is to acquaint present and future generations with some of the acts and stirring scenes at the time of the St. Albans raid." A lad twelve years old at the time, he says he "was an eye-witness of acts and scenes on the street the memorable day of the St. Albans raid." Articles and editorials from the *St. Albans Daily Messenger* of 1864 are reprinted verbatim, also various "Opinions of the Press," including *Walton's Journal*, *Burlington Free Press*, *Burlington Times*, *New York Tribune*, *Boston Journal*, *Montreal Witness*, *Concord (N. H.) Mirror*. The chief value of the pamphlet is in the contemporary items from the *Messenger* which reveal vividly the tension and excitement, also the various reactions of the raid in terms of motives and objectives upon the local citizens. The "Foreword" summarizes the entire raid and concludes with this statement: "It was my privilege in after years, to meet General Bennett Young upon the occasion of his visit to Montreal, and to discuss with him some of the scenes of the raid which I witnessed when a boy. General Young was a typical southern gentleman, as loyal to his re-united Country as he was to his cherished Confederacy. He told me that the raid was only the reckless escapade of a flaming youth of 21 years, steeped in the patriotism of the South. In reflection he wondered that he ever undertook it." The frontispiece is a cut of General Young in Confederate uniform as he appeared in 1864, the year of the raid.

GRAPHIC SURVEY—A First Step in State Planning for Vermont. 58 pp. A Report Submitted to the Vermont State Planning Board. By JOHN NOLEN *et al.* Montpelier, Vt. Vermont State Planning Board. 1935.

Whatever the historical importance of this "first step" may be, it can be said safely that it assembles information about Vermont that is valuable and probably unknown to most Vermonters. The phases studied are generally economic as is usually the case with such surveys, and the sources used in research are not as a rule indicated nor the formulas or methods utilized in the findings made, but a close examination indicates that the various studies have been cautiously done along conservative lines. Some of the topics discussed are these: natural resources of Vermont, highways, population, employment, income, wealth, agriculture, relief, recreation, education, and state finances. The graphical method is used throughout in an illuminating manner.

THE HISTORY OF LONDONDERRY—with Genealogical Sketches. By ADDISON E. CUDWORTH. 228 pp. Montpelier, Vt. The Vermont Historical Society. 1936. \$4.50.

It is fortunate that President Spargo was interested in making possible the publication of this history. The history of Londonderry is interlocked with many important phases of Windham County developments in early and later years, and the late Judge Cudworth had gathered as a way of recreation much vital data relating to the town, but he did not have publication in mind. His history itself is not a chronological study, but a gathering of material under descriptive heads, and it is to be regretted that he did not live to make a final revision of his book. Nevertheless, he has brought between covers a wide range of fact that will be serviceable. Over one hundred pages are given to genealogical sketches. Readers who often send in queries about the famous Londonderry newspaper, *The Londonderry Sifter*, which was published by George T. Shanks for twenty-one years, will find a brief sketch of that unique and somewhat amazing publication's career. The format of the book is a pleasant change from the despondent, dry-as-dust air that so many would-be histories don at the hands of their printers.

LINCOLN AND THE SLEEPING SENTINEL. By WALDO F. GLOVER.  
114 pp. Montpelier. The Vermont Historical Society. 1936.  
\$1.50.

Many are the versions of the story of Lincoln and the "Sleeping Sentinel," and the vitality of the controversy centering around him is testimony to the abiding human appeal of the incident in which he was involved. Mr. Glover has done a thorough, careful piece of research in unwinding the various tales down to the basic interpretation. Doctor William E. Barton, an authority on Lincoln's life, termed the story of the sentinel a myth. The "myth" did not stay a myth, however, and variations of the story continued to appear. Mr. Glover set out to "examine everything and suppress nothing which tended to throw light on the subject." He believed that the approximate truth could be determined. The book is a thoroughly documented examination of every phase of the tangled story, written fluently and logically, with a minimum of sentiment and a maximum of careful analysis. His conclusion is that the workman who fashioned the inscription on the monument to Scott "made no mistake when he carved the words, PARDONED BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN." Mr. Glover's book may be said to be the final word on his subject unless the private papers of President Lincoln, to be made public in 1947, bring to light contradictory facts; but it is doubtful if they will in the face of the logic of this presentation. The volume carries cuts of William Scott in uniform, the first page of the death warrant, the first page of the petition of the officers and men of his regiment for Scott's pardon.

A YANKEE SAINT—John Humphrey Noyes and the Oneida Community. By ROBERT ALLERTON PARKER. 316 pp. New York. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1935. \$3.75.

Most of the discussions of Noyes and his theories have been marred by prejudice, emotion, or the writer's religious bias. This history of Noyes and his community merits consideration because the approach is impartial and the development unhampered by inferences that do not rest on closely studied data. In addition, it is interestingly written with a human touch that gives life and movement to the entire story of a social experiment that was also a story of unusual personalities. Part One of the book deals with the emergence of the Noyes



family in Brattleboro, the birth of John Humphrey Noyes, the slow evolution of his character and his "Perfectionist" doctrines, culminating in his theory of communal marriage. This theory of sexual intercourse is carefully traced from its origin in Noyes's thinking until it became the basic reason for the explosion in Putney that led Noyes to take his little group of converts to Oneida, New York. This section of the book is engagingly written and surprisingly accurate in its pictures of early Brattleboro life. Part Two has for its theme the growth of the Oneida community in a material way and the growth of Noyes's ideas. Chapter Three, "Sacrament of Sex," is a brilliant and just exposition of the battle-scarred question of what Noyes believed, taught, and practiced with regard to sexual intercourse. According to Mr. Parker, "Just how the sexual function was to be redeemed and true relations between the sexes to be restored was the primary question Noyes sought to answer. His solution, written generations before the advent of modern psychology and the flood of 'literature' concerning the sexual problem, remains a landmark of courageous thinking. . . . Noyes's outspoken directness in dealing with such intimate problems should be enough to acquit him of the charge of fanaticism or of any obsessive compulsion." Part Three also contains an account of Noyes's scheme of "stirpiculture," and he actually carried his scheme into fulfilment, as any student of eugenics knows. The success of the Oneida community under its gifted leader is ably discussed in this section. The "hue and the cry" rose, however, in New York as it had risen in Putney, and Part Three of the book, entitled "Retreat," covers the slow crumbling of the original community, Noyes's surrender of the communal marriage scheme, and his exile at Niagara Falls. While such a theme, considering the entire life and work of Noyes, has many angles that Mr. Parker did not develop conclusively, the book as a whole is the first adequate biography of Noyes.

A. W. P.



## POSTSCRIPT

FROM time to time, word reaches me of some research work begun or progressing in Vermont history or in related fields. I feel that the *Proceedings* can extend its usefulness to students, readers, and those interested in research if it can publish information about such projects. We invite the co-operation of our readers in publishing the data we suggest; it should cover the name and address of the person doing the research and the field and topic or problem in hand. The dividends should be avoidance of duplication of effort, and, among others, contacts that may be useful.

Vermont cannot be charged, possibly, with being backward in marking historic spots in the State, but Virginia has been showing other States the right way to go about it. The Virginia Conservation and Development Commission authorized the placing of markers along the State highways, where they are most accessible to tourists and the general public. In cases where the event commemorated on the marker occurred some distance from the highway, that fact is noted on the inscription, as, for example in the following: "Four miles east on this road is the birthplace of Henry Clay; eight miles east is Hanover House, where Patrick Henry made his first great speech, 1763." Vermont lacks such a commission, and probably nothing will "be done about it," but as the native-stock Vermonter and his children fade from the scene, about all that will be left to knit the tattered traditions of the past together and suggest the "great days" that have been to those who know of them neither through blood or legend will be adequate markers that defy time and change and even man's faltering memory.

The June issue of *The Vermonter* contains a most interesting article by Frederick E. Wolf, entitled "A Community Rediscovered Its Soul." It is a capable sketch of the highlights of Poultney's history, the small Vermont community where George Jones, founder of the *New York Times* was born, where Horace Greeley learned his trade, where the first library in Vermont was established, but it is also more than a historical sketch in its emphasis upon the service

the historical background can render in awakening a sense of traditional values. The article will repay reading by those interested in Vermont town history and in methods of revivifying the dim values of the past. This year, Poultney organized its first historical society under the leadership of Mr. Wolf.

Here in outline is the story of an undertaking which will yield a harvest far beyond our present realization of what harvests in historical work are. Mr. H. M. McFarland of Hyde Park has collected and indexed a complete file of his county newspaper. He says of this file:

This file of the County Newspaper is absolutely complete beginning with the first issue of the "News Dealer," Nov. 30, 1860, and continuing to its sale in March, 1877, to A. A. Earle, and its absorption by the "Vermont Citizen," published at Morrisville. Then going on from the first issue of "The Lamoille News," April 18, 1877, a paper founded by the Rev. O. S. Basford, a Methodist minister, then located at Hyde Park, that the town might continue to be the home of a newspaper, to its union with the "Vermont Citizen" Dec. 1, 1881, on the expiration of Mr. Basford's pastorate, and thereafter published as the "News and Citizen," and from that time to the end of 1930, a little over 70 years, covering 3,644 issues.

This file, Mr. McFarland informed me in answer to my query, is "absolutely complete" with no missing issues. About 4000 cards make up the card index and cover about 58,000 entries. Mr. McFarland says that "No particular topics are treated. Everything is indexed as indicated by my judgment and selection to register the life of not Hyde Park alone, but the whole county, and in a lesser degree, matters of wide public interest in the State and Nation, but it is primarily intended to give, as it does give, a picture of the rural life of Lamoille County, majoring in Hyde Park, Johnson and Morrisville, as it was lived from day to day, a registration of the pulse beats of the community life in a way that cannot be equalled for accuracy in the portrayal by scribe or historian."

The bound volumes are in the Lanpher Memorial Library in Hyde Park in a special cabinet. The historian, the sociologist, the economist, and other students and brothers in research will recognize the profound possibilities in such a collection of material indexed so thoroughly.

A. W. P.

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